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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7398
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 7098

Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full **DECONTR**
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

GENEVA FOR LABATT. PLEASE PASS IMF'S HERMAN REBHAM

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS ELAB, SHUM, PINT, AR
SUBJECT TRANSFER OF LABOR LEADER MIGUEL TO HOUSE ARREST

DECONTROL

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6768

1. FORMER METALWORKERS UNION SECRETARY GENERAL AND BOSS OF THE PERONIST "62 ORGANIZATIONS" LABOR/POLITICAL MACHINE LORENZO MIGUEL WAS TRANSFERRED TO HIS PERSONAL RESIDENCE THIS PAST WEEKEND FROM THE MAGDALENA MILITARY PRISON WHERE HE HAS BEEN HELD SINCE THE MARCH 1976 MILITARY COUP. APPARENTLY, MIGUEL HAS BEEN PLACED IN "HOUSE ARREST" STATUS AND NOT "CONDITIONAL LIBERTY" AS IN THE RECENT CASES OF EX-GOVERNOR MENEM AND EX-CONSTRUCTION UNION LEADER PAPAGNO (REFTEL).

2. A RELATIVE TOLD THE PRESS THAT MIGUEL IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA, BUT ALL THE CONDITIONS OF HIS ARREST HAVE NOT BEEN CLARIFIED OFFICIALLY AS YET. ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM A TRADE UNION SOURCE WHO PROBABLY RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION

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FROM NAVY OFFICERS CLOSE TO ADMIRAL MASSERA (REFTEL), THE MILITARY JUNTA HAS SENTENCED MIGUEL TO A TOTAL OF THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT WITH THE ALLEVIATING

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PROVISION THAT HE MAY SPEND THE REMAINING SIX MONTHS OF HIS SENTENCE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

3. MIGUEL'S TRNASFER COMES AT A TIME WHEN METAL WORKERS LEADERS WHO HAVE RESISTED MIGUEL'S LEADERSHIP IN THE PAST ARE ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARMY UNDER WHICH THEY COULD (ALBEILL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE MILITARY TRUSTEE) GAIN GREATER CONTROL OVER THE EVERYDAY ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION'S AFFAIRS AS A TRANSITIONAL STEP FROM THE CURRENT STATE OF MILITARY INTERVENTION TO THE EVENTUAL GRANTING OF FULL UNION LIBERTY. THE SAME ANTI-MIGUEL ELEMENTS IN THE METAL UNION ARE LSO INVOLVED IN A MANEUVER, WITH SOME APPARENT UNDER THE TABLE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE ARMY, TO ORGANIZE A NEW "UNITY" DRIVE IN ORDER TO WREST CONTROL OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT AWAY FROM THE "PERONIST UNION MOVEMENT" (MSP) WHICH STILL--AS GOOD VERTICALISTS--HONORS MIGUEL'S STATUS AS CAPO DI TUTTI (SEPTTEL).
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